

Matthew Naud

Environmental Coordinator

City of Ann Arbor

mnaud@a2gov.org

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Grass and Yard Waste are not trash and do not belong in landfills.

We ought to be building compost economies with the organics we have and not killing the local jobs they create with legislation that supports only one industry and only a few of the landfill sites in the state.

If Michigan wants to get in the methane business we should be incenting biodigesters for organic wastes that are hard to compost.

The highest and best use for these materials is to remain on a lawn or make new soil for local reuse by homeowners, landscape architects, and local farms. We have landscapers that will only make soil from our compost and won't buy soil anywhere else.

Efforts to increase the amount of materials in landfills is short sighted and reflects poorly on the state. Any interest in increasing landfill materials is purely the effect of previous short sighted policies that created an over supply of permitted landfill space and resulted in extremely cheap tipping costs.

Despite these cheap tipping fees that allow Toronto to send tons of trash our way - Even with these cheap tipping fees, Ann Arbor has created a composting program that is 27% less expensive per ton of material than landfilling. And this program keeps and creates jobs. This bill does not create jobs or support the economy in ways that Michigan needs so desperately.

Our city has created the right economics where our private partner can bring in compostables from other communities and Ann Arbor residents benefit from this use of the market. This use of the market creates new funds to support the recycling and composting programs in our community.

Transfer and disposal costs are \$24.83/ton, and going up each year. Composting costs are \$19.50/ton, and going down over the next five years. Plus we get revenues from the sale of materials.

We compost an average of 10,000 tons per year and take in an amount over that from other communities. Land filling these tons will cost us an additional \$53,000 per year, plus lost sales revenue from the compostable materials.

In terms of MEDC, these are not job creating bills. These bills actually limit competition and take advantage of the cheap landfill space permitted by previous administrations that clearly do not cover

the full costs of managing these waste streams over time. Bills that would expand local composting programs would create jobs and support local food initiatives.

Top Ten Reasons Why Yard Waste Doesn't Belong in Landfills

10) More energy would be saved by composting and source reduction than would be generated by landfilling it.

9) Increasing organic material in landfills will increase greenhouse gas production and eventual release.

8) Landfills are an inefficient technology for energy production.

7) Organics make up a significant portion of the waste stream and have the potential to increase waste diversion dramatically.

6) Compost is valued for its nutrient content, is used as a soil amendment and for erosion control and stormwater management on farms, adjacent to roadways, and in environmental rehabilitation efforts.

5) Michigan has a well-developed infrastructure for composting yard clippings and yard waste provides an important bulking agent for the composting of other organics such as food waste.

4) Cost to municipalities and residents to dispose of yard clippings is likely to be more than composting yard clippings.

3) Composting yard clippings creates more jobs than landfilling.

2) Michigan has a very low recycling rate. Landfilling yard clippings will lower our ranking further.

1) The yard clippings disposal ban is one of the few tools Michigan has to limit solid waste importation.

Composting is a low-tech, environmentally sound, cost-effective, and decentralized method for managing yard clippings and other organic wastes, without the long-term impacts of disposal.

Michigan's compost industry provides jobs and a valuable soil amending end-product to farmers, landscapers, governments, and residents.

Landfills are engineered to exacting and expensive specifications to limit pollution from the disposal of waste, it is not a technology of the future. Putting organics back in the landfill is unnecessarily expensive and contributes to the production landfill gases that can't be cleanly or completely captured for energy production.